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November 21, 2016

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
Attention: Bulmaro Canseco
CAP Project Manager
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: County of San Diego Climate Action Plan and General Plan Amendment (PDS2015-POD-15-002 and PDS2016-GPA-16-007) Program Environmental Impact Report (PDS2016-ER-16-00-003)

Dear Mr. Canseco:

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), please accept the below comments for your consideration. With approximately 2,500 members representing an estimated 300,000 employees, the Chamber is the largest nonprofit advocate for regional businesses and is dedicated to growing commerce in the San Diego region, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the scope of the County's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for its Climate Action Plan (CAP) and General Plan Amendment.

- **Partnership Opportunities** – As you prepare the PEIR for the draft CAP, we encourage staff to explore opportunities for the County to achieve its climate action goals through the establishment or enhancement of new and existing partnerships with local municipalities, utilities, private corporations and others. Doing so will leverage expertise and efficiencies to reach greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in the most timely and cost-effective manner possible.
- **Flexibility** – The PEIR should anticipate sufficient flexibility for the CAP to take advantage of rapidly advancing technologies, which will allow the County to minimize costs and reach its environmental goals as efficiently as possible over the coming decades.
- **Balance** – A successful CAP balances the needs of the environment with those of the economy, community and local jobs. The PEIR should establish a basis for this balance so the County can ensure the environmental benefits are real, costs are minimized and investments are targeted to support the needs of our thriving economy and the jobs it creates.

San Diego's business community shares the County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Doing so is important for a healthy environment and a healthy economy. As we work toward reaching our environmental goals, it is critical we do so in a manner that also creates jobs, benefits our innovation economy, minimizes costs and supports our most vulnerable communities. We look forward to the release of the draft CAP and remaining engaged as the process moves ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry Sanders
President & CEO
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce